

James McNamara
Board Member

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Board Member

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WESTERN WASHINGTON GROWTH MANAGEMENT HEARINGS BOARD

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June 22, 2009

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

FROM: Nina Carter, Administrative Chair – Western Washington Board

RE: **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSOLIDATION OF
THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT HEARINGS BOARDS**

During the 2009 session, the Washington State Legislature adopted a 2009-2011 Biennium Budget which reduced the Growth Management Hearings Boards' budget – Eastern Washington, Western Washington, and Central Puget Sound – by almost 16 percent, with budget notes specifically contemplating a consolidation of the Boards' current three offices into a single location. After numerous discussions held at the Joint Boards' Semi-Annual Meeting on April 30, 2009 and, at subsequent meetings on May 27, 2009 and June 9, 2009, the Boards have determined that to address these budget appropriations an administrative consolidation is necessary.

THEREFORE, effective July 1, 2009, the Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board and the Eastern Washington Growth Management Hearings Board will relocate their offices to Olympia.¹ The Boards have adopted emergency rulemaking in order to facilitate this consolidation. Please review these rules at the Boards' website.

PLEASE NOTE, this consolidation is of the administrative functions only and does not modify the jurisdictional decision-making authority established by the Growth Management Act for the three Boards. The three Growth Management Hearings Boards remain separate and distinct boards. The Western Board retains jurisdiction and independent decision-making authority over petitions alleging a violation of the Growth Management Act for cities and counties planning under the Growth Management Act within Western Washington, except for King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. The Eastern and Central Puget Sound Boards' jurisdiction remains the same as well.

If you have any questions in regards to the administrative consolidation of the Growth Management Hearings Boards, please contact Paulette Yorke, Executive Assistant - Western Board, at 360-586-0260 or paulette@wwgmhb.wa.gov or Julie Ainsworth-Taylor, Staff Attorney – Growth Management Hearings Boards, at 425-441-8250 or juliet@cps.gmhb.wa.gov.

¹ The office of the Eastern Washington Growth Management Hearings Board will begin the process of relocating on this date. Actual closure of the Eastern Board's office is not scheduled to occur until August 31, 2009. All cases for Petitions for Review filed prior to July 1, 2009, will continue to have documents filed with the Yakima office of the Eastern Board until August 31, 2009. All new Petitions for Review shall be filed in the Olympia office.